

Youth Voice

East Suffolk  
Council



# Background



- Youth Voice is a district wide forum with a difference
- In 2018, Youth Voice was created after Suffolk Coastal District Council held the first Youth Conference to explore the idea of setting up a youth council
- Distance and travel difficulties meant Youth Voice was conduit that was formed where young people can submit their concerns for the local area, and ideas on how to improve it

# Forms of engagement

The main Youth Voice form is online but we don't just rely on the online form

We also directly engage with young people in various settings and through other partners:



School visits



Out of school clubs



High school assemblies



East Suffolk Young People Group – of youth providers

Young people select the area they live, and it will populate questions set for the current term.

All departments of East Suffolk Council can use the initiative and we have even had external partners pose questions.

Since the re-launch in January 2022, there has been around 465 submissions/engagements

## Youth voice - Have your say

Required fields are marked with \*

What area of East Suffolk do you live in? \*

Kesgrave, Rushmere St. Andrew, Martlesham and villages

**Kesgrave, Rushmere St. Andrew, Martlesham and villages include;** Otley, Charsfield, Dalinghoo, Clopton, Burgh, Grundisburgh, Swiland, Witnesham, Tuddenham, Westerfield, Playford, Bealings, Purdis Farm, Foxhall, Brightwell.

Your age \*

What springs to mind when you think about where you live?

We would like to make sure that people of all backgrounds and ages are able to easily find out what our Community Partnership is doing. What methods of communication would you recommend we use to keep in contact with young people?

What's good about Kesgrave?

Online submissions come in the form of an anonymous email. No email addresses or personal details are collected. Just the same as it would be on the paper forms.

Settings are still encouraged to use their post box to increase the potential engagement and not limit to online only.

Youth voice response - YV411777601



noreply@eastssuffolk.gov.uk  
To Chloe Lee



29/03/2022

**A response for Youth voice - Have your say has been received.**

**Area** Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages

**Age** Year 7

**Message**

**What do you like about where you live? -**

**What could be improved? -**

**Here are a few of the priorities that were chosen in 2020 by the Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages**

**Community Partnership. Which of them do you think are most important now? (Please select a maximum of 3)**

Encourage people to be environmentally active and look at waste recycling, Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives

**Are there any priorities you think are missing?**

**Thinking about your local area, if you were in charge for the day – what would you change or do to make it better?**

**Anything else you wish to tell us** Climate change

Wellbeing

Bug hotels - better environment

Safety for girls around toilet facilities

Diverse subjects - doing more school trips

Open expression in appearance

More arts and creativity

Encourage more team work

Cosy space

Once a term, all the responses are collected and sent in one report to key decision makers and partners, all of whom can turn the young people's words into actions.

Examples include; local councillors, police, health, highways.

Youth Voice has a key relationship with Community Partnerships.

**Youth Voice WINTER REPORT 2018**  
Leiston, Saxmundham and surrounding areas

**11%**

School pressures have been a topic of concern in this area, but also included worries post education. Learning about adult life, job opportunities and housing for young people made up 11% of young people's comments.

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC SPACES**

- Public toilets at the skate park
- More refuse and dog waste bins
- Better maintenance of play area equipment

Our young people of the area, particularly from Leiston and Saxmundham, are raising issues over public transport. The buses are irregular and don't connect to further transport options like trains. This is limiting their educational and social opportunities.

There is joint partnership between District and County Councils working in Leiston, Saxmundham and surrounding areas to address issues around public transport for all sections of the community. Specifically working on time tables and access to alternative provision.

@YOUTHVOICE\_ES

**Youth Voice WINTER REPORT 2018**  
Woodbridge and surrounding villages

**57%**

Say there are no age appropriate shops

THE YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED THE NEED FOR MORE LEISURE ACTIVITY PROVISION AND PLACES TO SOCIALISE - "SO OUR AGE ISN'T LOOKED AT NEGATIVELY AS WE WON'T BE ON THE STREET"

Check out where Just 42 youth club are at: [www.just42.org.uk/woodbridge](http://www.just42.org.uk/woodbridge)

**Have your say on Woodbridge Skate park!**

On 16 February 2019, the proposed design for the skatepark will be presented at a special event and local people and users of the skatepark are being invited to come along and have their say!

The event is taking place between 2pm and 4 pm at Woodbridge Community Centre, Station Road, IP12 4AU. There will light refreshments as well as a graffiti wall, photo booths and ballnado.

The young people of the Grundisburgh area are calling for improvements to the local park. Better maintained equipment and a shelter would increase the amount of time it was used and provide a safe space to play.

@YOUTHVOICE\_ES

**Youth Voice WINTER REPORT 2018**  
Framlingham and Surrounding Villages

**25%**

have requested more LGBT groups and community events

Transport is a big issue for the area, with many young people not having access to regular bus services this is impacting on their educational and social opportunities. Other educational concerns include mental health provisions within their school settings, expressing the need for a place to talk and gain advice on mental health worries.

Councillor Hudson invites you to create positive and practical solutions so that he can raise them on the health and wellbeing agenda.

**CREATING A SAFE COMMUNITY**

The young people have expressed a concern in community safety and the lack of Police in the area. A potential solution to this in the short term would be improvement to street lighting. They have advised the lights are often too dim and not on late enough.

This brings us onto the next item of interest, which is the skate park. Floodlights at the skate park, and the implementation of a shelter and toilets on site would improve the area and make it more inclusive for all to use.

@YOUTHVOICE\_ES

**SUMMER 2022 YOUTH VOICE REPORT**  
Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & villages

This term, we received a variety of different issues and ideas. We got responses from across the patch - the three towns plus villages like Barmby and Redisham.

Thank you to all who participated - please keep sharing your opinions and solutions through Youth Voice! The views and comments will be raised with the right people in the area.

**38%** Of comments related to having more places to go and more things to do.

It was mentioned about having more places where young people can go and meet up like cafés, play areas with football pitches (with nets on goals) and places away from the road. It was also mentioned about more activities and events for young people (and teenagers in particular) to gather once in a while and enable them to meet people and do activities.

**14%** Said they wanted to see improvements to local play parks and add more features to parks

**10%** Said about encouraging walking and physical exercise

**10%** Said they wanted better public transport so they could access activities

**10%** Said they wanted more support around mental health including people students can talk to

**AND ...**

We also received comments about:

- Indoor swimming pool
- More open gym equipment
- More wildlife areas like Carlton Marshes
- Leisure facilities
- A wildlife park to have a moment's piece
- Feeling of safety
- Walkways
- Overgrown hedges
- Making Beccles Common better

We will share these suggestions and comments with the right organisations.

**LOCAL NEWS**

The Community Partnership contributed funding alongside Halesworth Town Council and Councillor Tony Ballson to fund youth research in Halesworth. Access Community Trust were commissioned to carry this out and this will provide us with information about what to do for young people in the town and surrounding areas.

**SUMMER 2022 YOUTH VOICE REPORT**  
Lowestoft and Northern Parishes

This term, we received responses from individuals as well as schools. We had 68 responses which is fantastic! The responses ranged from the age of 8 to 15 and the issues, comments and ideas will be raised with the right people in the area.

Please continue to share your opinions and solutions with Youth Voice!

**37%** Of comments were about creating more play areas for young people.

A strong theme was about creating new play areas for young people including more skateparks and more play areas for younger children (5-10). Linked to this, 10% of comments were about making the current play areas cleaner including removing graffiti and replacing broken equipment. It was mentioned about wanting more local football pitches and clubs and having toilet facilities near to where young people are.

**27%** Of comments related to having more bins and signs encouraging bin use.

Litter was a big issue in this term's Youth Voice with comments saying more bins were needed, signage is needed about using the bins, having litter picks and having bins that prevent birds like seagulls getting to the rubbish. Another popular point was about more facilities for recycling especially bringing back brown waste bins for food waste. There was a desire to be better at recycling. We have shared this with the Community Partnership and other relevant people!

**AND ...** We also received (and will share) comments about:

- More leisure and fun activities like swimming pools
- More open gym equipment
- More wildlife areas like Carlton Marshes
- More trees/plants and stop cutting as many trees
- More focus on mental health
- More homeless shelters and foodbanks
- More places to eat
- Open up the fountains on South Pier again and improve Claremont Pier
- More out speed boats
- More places to sit down
- More art and music
- cat cafes
- Cut grass in communal areas.
- A local game like Pokemon Go

**LOCAL NEWS**

As part of Anti Social Behaviour Awareness Week in July, an event was held at Gunton Community Park for families and young people to try different activities and meet the Police, Council staff and Marse the Police Dog! 95 young people attended which is brilliant!

## What is done with the information

- Where there are specific issues like overgrown trees, these are fed back to the right agency (e.g. Highways) – subject to a specific location being given
- On broader theme areas/suggestions, we might want to ask more questions on it – e.g. young people said they wanted improvements to local play areas in a patch so follow up in the next Youth Voice would be what exact improvements would they like
- And real action can result!
- For example, Kesgrave – litter, poor lighting and the general condition of the 5 underpasses in Kesgrave was a key theme in the Youth Voice feedback.
- Shortly afterwards, work began on improving the underpasses using a local street artist and designs from local young people painted on the walls.
- Lighting has been fixed and anti-graffiti coatings added to the artwork.
- Work on the High School underpass was planned for the summer this year

# Youth Voice is getting noticed locally and nationally!

- With Instagram and our links with schools and youth groups, we are ensuring the word gets out about Youth Voice
- Youth Voice is also getting noticed elsewhere
- Other parts of the county really like the concept of Youth Voice
- In May 2022, the Local Government Association featured Youth Voice as a case study about youth people



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## Youth Voice Post Boxes in East Suffolk Council

Youth Voice is a project taking place in East Suffolk, in the East of England. The initiative forms part of East Suffolk Council's enabling communities strategy, and is run by the Communities Team.

Children and young people | 21 May 2022

### Background

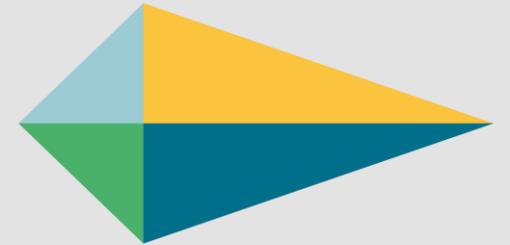
Youth Voice is a project taking place in East Suffolk, in the East of England. The initiative

**More case studies about Children and young people**

[Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council: Theatre Tracks - a project for cared for children in Tameside](#)

[Rutland: Resurrecting an Early Years and Childcare Strategy](#)

# Spring - snapshot



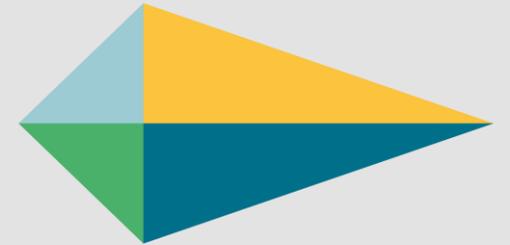
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## Key themes

- **Safety on the streets and at locations like skateparks** (Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages, Carlton Colville, Kessingland and Southwold, Felixstowe Peninsula, Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula)
- **Social activities and facilities for young people** (Felixstowe Peninsula, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages, Lowestoft and Northern Parishes, Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula)
- **The environment and litter** (Felixstowe Peninsula, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages, Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley)
- **Weight and healthy lifestyles** (Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & Villages, Lowestoft and Northern Parishes)
- **State of roads and trees and other infrastructure** (Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages)



# Summer – snapshot (so far)



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## Key themes

- **Areas to play and do sport – creating more and improving the ones there are** (Lowestoft and Northern Parishes, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages, Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages)
- **Support around mental health including people students can talk to** (Lowestoft and Northern Parishes, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages)
- **More opportunities to enjoy wildlife and nature** (Lowestoft and Northern Parishes, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages)
- **More bins and encouraging bin use** (Lowestoft and Northern Parishes)
- **More places to go and more things to do** (Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and surrounding villages)

Other themes  
that came  
forward – to  
date



# How this information is important for Community Partnerships

- This information doesn't provide us the full picture but it provides us with a snapshot of what young people feel about their community
- In some cases, there are very specific issues like overgrown verges or street lighting but in other cases, there may be theme areas – e.g. mental health
- This can lead to more opportunities for exploration about what young people want to see around this and how different partners can work together to achieve this
- It also helps Community Partnerships look through things in a 'youth prism' and do it in a way that considers what young people have said

## What next for Youth Voice?

- We want to further grow awareness of Youth Voice so more young people can use this as their mechanism to put forward views
- Increasing participation for partners to contribute questions
- Use Youth Voice as a gateway so young people can engage with other projects and groups as a result

Thank you

Any questions?